

disabled and developmentally disabled programs. The weighted average PMPY cost across all Title XIX groups is \$7,182.60.

I am concerned that the Medicaid expansion proposals being discussed at the federal level do not consider the fiscal difficulties states are facing and are likely to continue to face over the next few years. At the same time as Congress is considering prohibiting states from changing their Medicaid eligibility standards, there have been discussions about establishing a federal floor for Medicaid provider rates, which even further limits state flexibility in setting funding levels. State flexibility has been key to Arizona's success in developing and efficiently managing a Medicaid program that provides high quality care at a low cost.

Even with our strong cost containment measures, I remain concerned about Arizona's ability to sustain the existing AHCCCS model, let alone a mandatory expansion to 150 percent, regardless of whether the federal government provides full financing of the expansion for the first five years. Medicaid is already an increasing share of state budgets—Arizona's General Fund spending on AHCCCS has increased by 230% over the past ten years, and has risen from 8 percent of General Fund spending in FY 1999 to an estimated 16 percent in FY 2009.

Maintaining this level of spending increases will be difficult, especially given that Medicaid enrollment and costs continue to rise. Moreover, Arizona's revenues are not expected to turn around for several years and, even when they do rebound, we would require significant revenue growth in order to sustain rising expenditures for the existing Medicaid program.

Attached, please find data responsive to your requests. There is a summary sheet that provides an overview of the information requested, along with several other sheets that provide additional detail. As you know, there are many unanswered questions regarding the proposals. This analysis includes the assumptions that were used to develop the figures, which will obviously change as the proposals are refined.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have questions or should require additional information. I share your concern regarding Arizona's ability to expand its Medicaid program and what the long-term fiscal implications will be for Arizona, and I hope you find this information useful as you consider the various proposals that are before you.

Sincerely,

JANICE K. BREWER,
Governor, Arizona.

COMMENDING JOYCE BOLAND FOR
RECEIVING THE REGIONAL COM-
MISSIONER'S CITATION FROM
THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINIS-
TRATION

HON. TODD RUSSELL PLATTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Mr. PLATTS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend my constituent, Joyce Boland, for receiving the Regional Commissioner's Citation from the Social Security Administration. The Regional Commissioner's Citation is the second highest award that Social Security gives to employees who demonstrate the highest standards of professionalism as established by the agency.

Joyce Boland has worked for the Social Security Administration for 39 years and has

dedicated her life to public service. She is often asked to train and mentor employees in other branches, which she does without hesitation. In fact, this is the third time she has received the Regional Commissioner's Citation, an award that is rarely awarded even once in a career, let alone three times.

I applaud the good service that Joyce Boland has not only provided the Social Security Administration, but to the citizens of York County and Pennsylvania as a whole. For this reason, I urge my colleagues to join me in commending Joyce Boland for her good work and service to her country.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "WATER
TRANSFER FACILITATION ACT
OF 2009"

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, today with Congressman CARDOZA I introduced the "Water Transfer Facilitation Act of 2009." The measure should reduce unnecessary delays in water transfers at a time when Central Valley farmers have been hard hit by a three-year drought. It would allow new water transfers of roughly 250,000 to 300,000 acre-feet of water per year. The bill would grant new authority to the Bureau of Reclamation to approve voluntary water transfers between sellers and buyers in the San Joaquin Valley. The measure also would streamline environmental reviews for Central Valley water transfers by ensuring that they occur on a programmatic basis, instead of the current project-by-project basis.

Transferring water between and within counties for water districts is a critical tool during periods of drought. While the best solution would be to have the federal and state pumps fully operational, because we have been unable to modify the Endangered Species Act, this change in the law provides us some relief. This legislation makes permanent the ability to transfer water to our Valley's farms when it is most needed, therefore, allowing our farmers a lifeline to continue to grow crops and help our local economy. More will need to be done to protect the Valley's water, and I will continue that fight.

The bill is supported by a great number of water users across the Central Valley, including the following: Friant Water Users Authority, San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Authority, Delta-Mendota Canal Authority, Westlands Water District, Metropolitan Water District, Glenn Colusa Irrigation District, Northern California Water Association, Banta-Carbona Irrigation District, Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority, Association of California Water Agencies, Placer County Water Agency, Conaway Preservation Group, and Reclamation District 2035.

I have submitted several of these support letters, and I understand that Mr. CARDOZA will submit additional letters as well.

FRIANT WATER USERS AUTHORITY,

Lindsay, CA, October 1, 2009.

Subject: Support for transfer legislation for the Central Valley Project.

Hon. Congressman JIM COSTA,
Longworth House Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN COSTA: On behalf of Friant Water Users Authority (Authority), we thank you for introducing transfer legislation for the Central Valley Project (CVP) and we support your efforts and this legislation as a means of providing greater flexibility for management of CVP water supplies.

The diminished water deliveries to the CVP as a result of 3 years of below average precipitation amplified by various regulatory restrictions, including the ESA and the most recent delta smelt and salmon Biological Opinions, have, as you know, created a desperate situation in the San Joaquin Valley.

While long-term solutions are being sought, numerous short term efforts are needed to help bridge the water supply gap and greater flexibility, as provided in your legislation, to move water supplies across the San Joaquin Valley would be a useful tool. In addition, the legislation would help Friant districts affected by the SJR Settlement improve management of surface and groundwater supplies.

The Authority consists of nineteen member water, irrigation and public utility districts. The Friant Service area includes approximately one million acres and 15,000 mostly small family farms on the east side of the southern San Joaquin Valley (Madera, Fresno, Tulare and Kern County). Friant Division water supplies are also relied upon by several cities and towns, including the City of Fresno, as a major portion of their municipal and industrial water supplies.

We look forward to engaging in this effort and working closely with you and your staff in advancing this legislation and addressing California water issues.

Sincerely,

RONALD D. JACOBSMA,
Consulting General Manager.

SAN LUIS & DELTA MENDOTA

WATER AUTHORITY,

Los Banos, CA, October 5, 2009.

Re Water Transfer Facilitation Act of 2009.

Hon. DIANNE FEINSTEIN,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

Hon. BARBARA BOXER,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

Hon. DENNIS CARDOZA,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JIM COSTA,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR FEINSTEIN, SENATOR BOXER, MR. CARDOZA, AND MR. COSTA: I am writing on behalf of the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority to express our enthusiastic support for your bill, the Water Transfer Facilitation Act of 2009, authorizing certain transfers of water in the Central Valley Project and other purposes. Water transfers are essential to sound water management and often are time sensitive. Your legislation will bring important reform to existing transfer authorization thus increasing the efficacy of this essential water management tool.

As you are keenly aware, coping with California's water crisis and, in particular, the chronic water supply shortages impacting the Central Valley Project demands utilization of various best management practices